

Library

THE HEALTH
of the
RURAL DISTRICT OF BLABY

Leicestershire



1955

The ANNUAL REPORT
of the Medical Officer of Health
and the Chief Sanitary Inspector

RURAL DISTRICT OF BLABY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

D.H. McFarland, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

(Resigned 14th December 1955)

with comments by

A.C. Ross, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(Appointed 1st January 1956)

together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. J. Galsworthy, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

for the

YEAR

1955

BLABY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee

(Appointed May 1955)

Mr. T.H.H. Potter, Chairman of Committee,	Mr. G.W. Sharpe, Chairman of the Council, Vice-Chairman of Committee,
Mr. J.H. Bent,	Mrs. D.K. Pope,
Mr. S. Callington,	Mrs. G.E. Frears,
Mr. A.W. Capers,	Mrs. O.M. Hunt,
Mr. W. Coley,	Mr. T.F. Leavesley,
Mr. A.G. Cosby,	Mr. G.H. Marriott,
Mr. K.A. Dalton,	Mr. H.L.A. Masters,
Mr. J.W. Glazebrook,	Mr. J. Snape,
Mr. F.M. Griffin,	Mr. W. Wedge,
Mr. J.W. Herrick,	Mr. F.H. Webb,
Mr. D.J. Holt,	Mr. L. Wells,
Mr. V.C. James,	Mr. H. Yates.
Mr. J.G. Kew,	

Public Health Department

Officers and Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

D. H. McFarland, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
(Resigned 14th December 1955)

A. C. Ross, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Appointed 1st January 1956)

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

John J. Galsworthy, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

A. J. Slipp, M.S.I.A.

R. R. Blaylock, M.S.I.A.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector: P.J. Henze.

Secretary: Mrs. S.M. Farndale.

Shorthand Typist: Miss J. Mills.

General Assistant and
Rodent Operator: G.E. Hunt.

To the Chairman and Members of
Blaby Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the
Health of the District for the Year 1955.

You will appreciate that this report is for the period
when my predecessor, Doctor D.H. McFarland, was your Medical
Officer of Health.

The Vital Statistics present a satisfactory position
with the Birth and Death Rates slightly higher than last year,
and the Infant Mortality Rate somewhat lower.

I am sure that Doctor McFarland would wish me to
express, on his behalf, his gratitude to the Chairman and
Members of the Public Health Committee for their help during
the Year.

I should also like to thank the staff of the Health
Department for their willing assistance in the compilation of
this Report.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

Andrew C. Ross,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	312	266	578
Illegitimate	6	13	19
Totals	318	279	597

BIRTH RATE

14.9 per 1,000 estimated population

1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
15.5	14.1	15.3	14.8	14.2	14.5	15.8	13.9	17.1	20.2	20.6

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
16.4	19.3	19.4	17.2	16.7	14.9	14.8	14.3	13.5	13.0	14.9

The Birth Rate of 14.9 per 1,000 estimated population represents an increase on the previous year's figure. There were 597 total births representing an increase of 81 over last year.

The Birth Rate in 1950 was 14.9, in 1951 14.8, and, going back a few years, 14.8 in 1937.

The general trend over the years of a falling birth rate is clear enough. The problems which this entails have already become the concern of many in the field of medicine and its allied branches.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales was 15.0 per 1,000 population. Illegitimate births represent 3.2% of the total live births.

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths from all causes	274	241	515

DEATH RATE

12.8 per 1,000 estimated population

1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
7.8	10.0	8.6	9.6	8.1	9.0	10.2	9.2	8.9	10.6	9.9

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
9.5	10.9	10.2	9.2	9.9	9.5	10.0	8.5	10.6	10.9	12.8

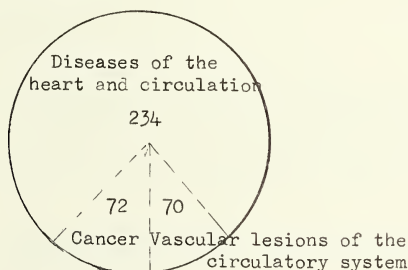
The Death Rate was 12.8 per 1,000 estimated population. This represents a slight increase on last year. In general, the death rate has not altered significantly over the last twenty years.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.7 per 1,000 estimated population.

The commonest causes of death (see Page 16) were:-

- i) Heart disease and diseases of the circulatory system
- ii) Cancer
- iii) Vascular lesions of the circulatory system

The incidence of these three causative factors can be illustrated diagrammatically.



It should be observed that motor vehicle accidents caused five deaths during the year, and, as there were no deaths due to pregnancy and childbirth, it is evidently infinitely safer in this mid-twentieth century for a woman to have a child than to drive a car on our peopled and tortuous highways; one hazard is removed only for another to appear.

DEATHS PER MONTH OVER FOUR YEARS

MONTH	• 1955	1954	1953	1952
January	60	37	48	38
February	44	52	44	33
March	49	52	66	26
April	43	30	34	32
May	49	33	25	31
June	38	33	25	18
July	35	41	15	19
August	34	26	26	22
September	25	30	34	26
October	36	23	21	31
November	54	31	41	24
December	48	46	43	42

Cancer Mortality Rate (all forms) taken in triennial periods

1928 - 30	1.1	1943 - 45	1.6
1931 - 33	1.3	1946 - 48	1.6
1934 - 36	1.4	1949 - 51	1.8
1937 - 39	1.4	1952 - 54	1.6
1940 - 42	1.4	1955	1.4

There were 72 deaths from cancer this year. This represents a decrease of 3 on last year.

Cancer of the breast accounted for 7 of these deaths in women.

Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	7	2	9
Illegitimate	-	-	0
Totals	7	2	9

Infant Mortality Rate

15.1 per 1,000 live births

1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
44	40	27	46	25	30	40	43	50	28	34

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
36	34	43	27	29	29	27	25	26	25	15

Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-	0
Totals	4	1	5

Neonatal Death Rate

9.4 per 1,000 live births

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	8	12
Illegitimate	-	-	0
Totals	4	8	12

Still Birth Rate

20.1 per 1,000 (live & still) births

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
33	26	35	33	15	22	30	27	11	28	20

There were 9 infant deaths under one year of age, and of these 5 died in the first four weeks of life. The number of still births were twelve.

The causes of infant mortality are set out below:-

Under Four Weeks

Pneumonia	3
Pulmonary Atelectasis	2

Four Weeks to Twelve Months

Prematurity	1
Pneumonia	2
Staphylococcal meningitis	1

Our Infant Mortality Rate was 15.1 per 1,000 live births. This very low figure is due to statistical chance. Last year, it was 25.5 per 1,000 live births.

The figure for England and Wales for 1955 was 24.9.

GENERAL STATISTICS - 1955

Area of District	32,583 acres
Population (Estimated Mid-Year)	40,150
Number of occupied houses	12,969
Rateable Value (31st December 1955)	£200,752
Product of a Penny Rate	£782

Population

In 1954 the population was 39,800. It is apparent from the figures that the increase in population was of the order of 350.

Age Incidence of Death

	Males	Females	Totals	Percentage
Under 4 weeks	4	1	5	0.97
4 weeks - 1 year	3	1	4	0.78
1 - 4 years	2	1	3	0.58
5 - 14 "	4	0	4	0.78
15 - 24 "	4	1	5	0.97
25 - 34 "	5	3	8	1.55
35 - 44 "	4	11	15	2.91
45 - 54 "	20	15	35	6.79
55 - 64 "	40	28	68	13.20
65 - 74 "	78	56	134	26.01
75 - 84 "	87	93	180	34.95
85 - 94 "	23	30	53	10.29
95 - 100 "	0	1	1	0.19
100+	0	0	0	-

By looking at the table, it will be seen that:-

1) The most hazardous periods of life lie at the extremities: that is during the first four weeks and at age 65 upwards.

2) 71.45% of those who died exceeded the age of 65 years.

We are indeed becoming a nation with a high proportion of elderly people. The whole question of old age is puzzling and little understood.

As the years go by medical research may well find a way of preventing the onset of old age, and, as a result, many of us will remain active in mind and body well into the ninth decade of life.

Perhaps this, as is probable, will happen gradually as the causes of senility are removed. The prospect of permanent youth will then no longer be a dream but a reality.

Whether this will prove to be a blessing to mankind is a question which can safely be left to future generations. Will they in their turn curse the scientists who made this possible as we now curse the inventors of the hydrogen bomb?

Increase of Births over Deaths

1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
279	122	206	166	203	188	198	170	294	340	381

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
243	360	342	306	265	227	187	228	114	82	82

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of cases of Infectious Diseases
notified during the Year 1955

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Number of Cases Notified at Ages								TOTAL DEATHS
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25- 45 yrs.	45- 65 yrs.	65 & up- wards	
Scarlet Fever	13	-	2	11	-	-	-	-	0
Whooping Cough	91	5	43	42	1	-	-	-	0
Diphtheria	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Measles	1,134	22	464	633	2	8	-	-	0
Pneumonia	73	2	8	2	2	18	24	17	18
Meningococcal Infection	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Polio-myelitis	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Dysentery	33	1	3	10	4	8	7	-	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	0
Enteric Fever	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	0
Erysipelas	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	28	-	-	5	5	12	5	1	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	6	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	2

Notifications of Infectious Disease for the Year 1955

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Whoop- ing Cough	Measles	Pneu- monia	Polio- myeli- tis	Dysen- tery	Puer- peral Pyrexia	Food Poison- ing	Erysip- elas	Pul- monary TB.	Other Forms TB.	Acute Enceph- alitis	TOTAL
Aston	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Flemville	-	4	122	16	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	146
Blaby	3	31	228	7	-	12	1	1	-	5	1	-	289
Braunstone	-	-	115	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	134
Cosby	1	10	151	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	169
Countesthorpe	3	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Croft	1	2	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	24
Elmesthorpe	2	2	77	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	82
Enderby	2	9	98	4	-	7	-	-	-	2	-	-	122
Glenfield	1	4	27	4	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	39
Glen Parva	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Huncote	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Kilby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Kirby Muxloe	-	7	85	5	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Leicester	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Forest West	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84
Lubbesthorpe	-	12	51	1	-	8	-	-	1	10	1	-	0
Marborough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Potters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Marston	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Sapcote	-	-	7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	10
Sharnford	-	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	12
Stoney Stanton	-	5	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	24
Thurlaston	-	-	101	10	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	119
Whetstone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Wigston Parva	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
TOTAL	13	89	1,134	74	1	33	2	1	2	28	7	1	1,385

Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

Average per Year in Triennial Periods

	1928 - 1930	1931 - 1933	1934 - 1936	1937 - 1939	1940 - 1942	1943 - 1945	1946 - 1948	1949 - 1951	1952 - 1954	1955
Smallpox	27	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	94	88	142	44	90	97	70	44	34	13
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	101	74	131	164	111	89
Diphtheria	43	12	36	27	42	13	5	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	485	393	216	525	232	1,134
Pneumonia	11	10	10	12	24	20	27	30	46	74
Meningococcal Infection					5	5	3	0.7	0.7	-
Poliomyelitis	-	0.7	0.7	1	0.7	0.3	2	9	1.3	1
Dysentery					8	4	3	36	40	33
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	1	0.7	1	0.7	-	0.3	0.3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	4	3	3	5	3	2	0.7	1	2
Enteric Fever	2	1	1	0.3	2	1	0.7	0.3	-	-
Food Poisoning								5	10	1
Erysipelas	11	8	12	11	12	13	7	6	6	2

General Comment

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases is very much higher this year.

This is due in considerable measure to an epidemic of measles that occurred in the Spring.

The incidence for the year of whooping cough and pneumonia were almost identical: dysentery showed a marked decrease on last year, and there was only one notified case of food poisoning.

It should be noted that again there were no cases of diphtheria or typhoid fever during the year.

The parishes showing the highest incidence of infectious disease were Braunstone, Countesthorpe, and Blaby in that order of magnitude.

Measles

The number of notifications were 1,134. Measles is a disease in which a maximum incidence of cases occur every second year.

This year in Blaby was the one when an epidemic was to be expected in contrast to the previous year when there were only 12 cases.

As a matter of general interest, this regular periodicity of measles is changing in many parts of the country, and epidemics are assuming in point of time an irregular pattern.

Poliomyelitis

There was one case of this disease during the year.

This occurred in a widow of 47 years of age. She was admitted to Groby Road Isolation Hospital on the 19th November with a facial paralysis and died of an encephalitis on the following day.

Dysentery

There were 33 cases for the year as compared with 77 the previous year.

Immunisation

Diphtheria

Numbers of Children Immunised

	Primary			Re-immunised	Number of babies born during preceding year minus deaths under 1 year
	Under 5	5-14	Total		
1947	568	70	638	170	680
1948	610	43	653	410	189
1949	510	28	538	373	639
1950	423	37	460	263	623
1951	461	11	472	403	573
1952	462	35	497	343	567
1953	364	21	385	370	553
1954	415	40	455	370	523
1955	408	25	433	377	503

Tuberculosis

Twenty-eight cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 7 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Of these 28 cases 5 occurred in children.

Total cases of Tuberculosis remaining on Register

Pulmonary			Other Forms of Tuberculosis	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
New Cases	16	12	5	2
Total on Register at 31st December 1955	110	101	26	17
TOTAL	211		43	

Death Rates relating to all forms of Tuberculosis

(With comparative figures for England & Wales)

Rates per 1,000 population

Year	Estimated Population	Total No. of Notifications	Notification Rate	Total No. of Deaths	Death Rates	Death Rate England & Wales
1932	34,290	44	1.28)	29	0.85)	0.82
1933	35,070	45	1.28)	36	1.03)	0.80
1934	36,260	49	1.35)	30	0.83)	0.74
1935	27,100	31	1.14)	19	0.70)	0.70
1936	31,080	24	0.80)	15	0.50)	0.67
1937	32,230	32	0.90)	14	0.43)	0.67
1938	33,090	20	0.60)	7	0.21)	0.62
1939	34,290	25	0.73)	18	0.52)	0.62
1940	34,180	32	0.94)	17	0.50)	0.67
1941	36,300	51	1.40)	15	0.70)	0.70
1942	35,740	54	1.51)	17	0.48)	0.61
1943	35,470	38	1.07)	23	0.65)	0.61
1944	35,520	42	1.18)	13	0.37)	0.57
1945	35,180	21	0.60)	14	0.40)	0.56
1946	37,460	22	0.59)	21	0.56)	0.53
1947	37,170	25	0.67)	10	0.27)	0.54
1948	38,050	30	0.79)	11	0.29)	0.88
1949	38,360	37	0.96)	11	0.29)	0.45
1950	39,130	25	0.64)	10	0.26)	0.36
1951	39,520	33	0.84)	12	0.31)	0.31
1952	39,750	35	0.88)	10	0.25)	0.24
1953	39,810	33	0.83)	8	0.20)	0.20
1954	39,800	24	0.60)	4	0.10)	0.17
1955	40,150	35	0.87)	3	0.07)	0.15

DEATH FROM ALL CAUSES

	1955		
	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	1	2
3. Syphilitic disease	1	0	1
4. Diphtheria	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	1	1
8. Measles	0	0	0
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	1	2	3
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	5	11
11. " " lung, bronchus	13	2	15
12. " " breast	0	7	7
13. " " uterus	0	3	3
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	19	17	36
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	0	2
16. Diabetes	3	4	7
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	36	34	70
18. Coronary disease, angina	34	22	56
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	6	9
20. Other heart disease	67	77	144
21. Other circulatory disease	14	11	25
22. Influenza	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia	9	9	18
24. Bronchitis	16	4	20
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	8	1	9
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	1	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	3	0	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	0	3	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	0
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32. Other defined & ill-defined diseases	20	22	42
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	0	5
34. All other accidents	5	5	10
35. Suicide	3	3	6
36. Homicide & operations of war	0	0	0
TOTAL	274	241	515

REPORT
of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the
YEAR
1955

To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Blaby.

Sir, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report relating principally to the Sanitary Circumstances of the District, and the work carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors.

In spite of the difficulties experienced in the post-war era, considerable improvement has been made in the sanitary circumstances in the District during the past ten years since 1945, particularly with regard to the extension of piped water supplies and sewerage into our villages.

Mains water supplies have now been taken into every village in the District; every village has been provided with sewers with the exception of three of the smaller villages, sewerage schemes for which have already been prepared.

Particularly pleasing is the progress made in the conversion of pail closets to water closets over the past ten years, the number of pail closets having been reduced from 2,329 in 1945 to 658 at the end of 1955.

Housing conditions have been improved by the erection of nearly 2,500 new houses and by the Closing or Demolition of 125 individual unfit dwellings, but it was not until 1955 that the Council was permitted to commence on a Slum Clearance Programme.

Looking back over my twelve previous Annual Reports, I feel that the progress made in the sanitary circumstances of the District has been sound and well maintained.

In conclusion, I should like to express my deep appreciation of the support and interest extended to me by the Chairman and Members, the willing co-operation of the other Officers of the Council, and the loyal assistance of the Staff of the Department.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

John J. Galsworthy,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

1. WATER SUPPLY

Mains Water Supplies

All but two of the twenty-three parishes in the District are now provided with mains water supply.

The two remaining parishes, Potters Marston and Leicester Forest West, are principally agricultural in character and have no villages or groups of dwellings in centres, but certain farms and premises in these two parishes are on piped supplies of water from various sources.

Mains water is supplied to the various parishes by three authorities.

Parish	Supply
Braunstone Blaby Cosby Countesthorpe Enderby Glenfield Glen Parva Huncote Kilby Kirby Muxloe Narborough Whetstone Lubbesthorpe (Part)	Leicester Corporation
Thurlaston	Leicester Corporation under agreement with Blaby R.D.C.
Stoney Stanton Sapcote Sharnford Elmesthorpe Wigston Parva Aston Flamville	Blaby R.D.C.
Croft	Croft Granite Brick & Concrete Co. Ltd.

Quality of Mains Water Supplies

Samples of water are regularly taken from the three public supplies of mains water in the District and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination to ensure that they are maintained at a satisfactory degree of purity.

The waters from the Blaby R.D.C. and the Croft Granite Company's supplies are considerably hard, and the degree of hardness in the supply from Leicester Corporation is sufficient to prevent any plumbo-solvent action.

The hardness of the water supplied by Blaby Council from the present quarry source has influenced the Council, as a constituent member of the River Dove Water Board, to contemplate the abandonment of the quarry supply in favour of a bulk supply from the Water Board when available.

Analysis of Mains Water Supplies - 1955

Examination	Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Chemical	21	21	0
Bacteriological	21	21	0

	Leicester Corporation	Blaby R.D.C.	Croft Granite Company
	Parts per Million		
Total Solids	100.0	900.0	2000.0
Loss on ignition	20.0	200.0	400.0
Free ammonia	0.0	0.0	0.0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.05	0.05	0.002
Nitrogen	6.0	11.0	2.0
Oxygen consumed in 4 hours	1.032	0.967	0.310
Chlorine	14.000	32.000	40.000
Hardness	40.000	550.000	1000.000
	pH 8.0	pH 8.0	pH 8.0
Lead and Copper	absent	absent	absent
Bacterial count at 37°C	7 organisms per CC	5 organisms per CC	15 organisms per CC
Bacillus Coli 44°C	Absent in 10 CC's	Absent in 10 CC's	Absent in 10 CC's

Shortage of Supply

There would appear to be no real shortage of supply of water to the District, but, during the year, complaints were received of occasional inadequacy of pressure in various parts.

Extension of Piped Supplies

The following extensions took place during 1955:-

- Stoney Stanton - A 3" water main laid in Broughton Road for a length of 736 yards to supply 8 houses.
- Sapcote - The 4" water main extended for 133 yards along Hinckley Road to supply farm premises.
-

During the year 19 dwellings formerly served by 8 polluted wells were provided with mains water supply.

Well Water Supply

With the good coverage of the District with mains water supplies, the few areas and small communities still relying on well water supplies have become high-lighted.

It is realised that it is financially quite uneconomical to take mains water to such small communities, but where the wells are inadequate and polluted, consideration will have to be given to such extensions where possible.

The Council has now agreed to provide piped water supply to the Seine Lane area in Enderby, and future consideration will have to be given in respect of groups of dwellings at:-

Hinckley Road, Leicester Forest West;
Stanton Lane, Potters Marston;
Burbage Common Road, Elmeathorpe.

Examination of Well Water 1955

Samples Satisfactory		Samples Not Satisfactory	
Chemical	Bacteriological	Chemical	Bacteriological
3	3	0	5

Action is taken to have polluted wells closed and mains water supply installed where possible.

Where no mains water is available, an endeavour is made to improve the water supply by cleaning out the well.

One well was cleansed during the year.

The following tables indicate the present water supply position in the District and in the various parishes.

WATER SUPPLY FROM MAINS				WATER SUPPLY FROM WELLS	
Approximate Number of Houses		Estimated Population		Approximate Number of Houses	Estimated Population
	12,917	40,232		291	873
Direct Supply to House	By Stand-pipes	Direct Supply to House	By Stand-pipes		
12,586	331	39,232	1,000		

Parish	Number of Occupied Premises	Estimated Population	Number of Houses on Mains Supply	Number of Houses with Water Direct to House	Number of Houses Served by Stand-pipes	Number of Houses Served by Wells
Aston Flamville	40	120	33	33	-	7
Blaby	1,019	3,150	1,010	968	42	9
Braunstone	3,105	9,450	3,105	3,105	-	-
Cosby	522	1,550	506	498	8	16
Countesthorpe	711	2,200	710	682	28	1
Croft	352	990	347	282	65	5
Elmesthorpe	101	390	93	93	-	8
Enderby	1,227	3,650	1,220	1,205	15	7
Glenfield	1,232	3,750	1,232	1,202	30	-
Glen Parva	1,104	3,450	1,102	1,102	-	2
Huncote	246	540	226	210	16	20
Kilby	83	250	64	61	3	19
Kirby Muxloe	977	3,100	971	970	1	6
Leicester						
Forest West	13	45	2	2	-	11
Lubbesthorpe	28	75	16	16	-	12
Narborough	804	3,550	796	794	2	8
Potters Marston	12	45	1	1	-	11
Sapcote	275	810	258	245	13	17
Sharnford	188	600	172	169	3	16
Stoney Stanton	481	1,450	477	427	50	4
Thurlaston	146	400	58	42	16	88
Whetstone	526	1,500	507	471	36	19
Wigston Parva	16	40	11	8	3	5
TOTAL	13,208	41,105	12,917	12,586	331	291

2. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

Sixteen of the twenty-three parishes in the District now have main drainage, the sewage being treated at eleven sewage disposal works.

Blaby and Whetstone
Braunstone
Cosby and Narborough
Countesthorpe
Croft and Huncote
Enderby
Glenfield
Glen Parva
Kirby Muxloe
Sapcote, Sharnford and Stoney Stanton
Kilby

Work is in progress for the sewerage of Thurlaston which will be drained to the Croft and Huncote works.

The scheme for the provision of main drainage to part of Elmesthorpe has been approved by the Ministry.

The sewerage scheme for the small hamlet of Wigston Parva has now been deferred for several years on account of cost.

As this is probably the last parish in the District requiring main drainage, and there is no indication of a fall in costs, but rather the reverse, it may now be appropriate to endeavour to carry out this scheme and so remedy the present unsatisfactory drainage arrangements in the hamlet.

Cesspools

As a result of re-drainage of premises to sewers, 20 cesspools were abolished during the year, but 3 new cesspools were constructed to newly erected houses where no sewers were available.

There now remain approximately 320 cesspools in the District.

When the Thurlaston and Elmesthorpe sewerage schemes are eventually completed the number of cesspools will be further reduced, but there will still remain in the District a considerable number of dwellings on cesspools which the Council has undertaken to empty four times yearly.

In the majority of cases, the cesspools are quite inadequate to take three months flow of drainage and generally leak and overflow within this period, often causing considerable nuisance.

Sewer extensions are costly, but where it is possible to make such an extension to serve a group of houses, regard should

be taken of the saving on cesspool emptying.

Pail Closet Conversions

The steady rate in the progress of the replacement of pail closets by water closets has been maintained during the year, 238 such conversions having been made.

Particularly gratifying is the fact that all Council houses have now been provided with water closets following the recent sewerage of the Southern parishes, with the exception of six houses in Sharnford where work is in progress on a small pumping plant to enable such remaining conversions to be made.

In many cases, conversions have been delayed due to building contractors being engaged on other works, and to the general shortage of building labour in the Southern part of the District.

Some owners are experiencing financial difficulty in having conversions carried out at their property, the limit of £7.10s.0d to the contribution made by the Council towards the cost of a conversion being in the majority of cases well below half the actual cost of the work of conversion, and very small when compared with the total cost of all the work involved.

Not taking account of the conversions that will eventually take place in Thurlaston following resewerage, it is anticipated that there will now be a steady slowing-down in the rate of conversions in the remaining parishes in the District, due to the reluctance of the remaining owners to co-operate with the Council and to participate in the voluntary conversion scheme.

As mentioned in my reports for previous years, the time is nearing when the Council will have to consider enforcement of such conversions by statutory action under the provisions of Section 47, Public Health Act, 1936.

Slum Clearance will result in the abolition of approximately 50 pail closets, but it will need a special effort to deal with the remaining 600 convertible closets within the next five years.

Conversion Progress

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Conversions</u>
1945	43
1946	88
1947	120
1948	124
1949	140
1950	177
1951	233
1952	140
1953	107
1954	232
1955	238
<u>Total Post-War Conversions</u>	<u>1,642</u>

Pail Closet Position

Parish	Converted 1955	Grant Appli- cations 1955	Applications approved. Conversions not completed	Pail Closets at 31.12.55.	Remarks
Aston Flamville	1	2	1	15	Not sewered
Blaby	0	2	5	32	
Braunstone	0	0	0	0	
Cosby	1	1	1	20	
Countes- thorpe	0	1	8	21	
Croft	38	8	0	59	
Elmesthorpe	0	0	0	13	Not sewered
Enderby	2	1	1	28	
Glenfield	10	3	12	35	
Glen Parva	0	0	3	3	
Huncote	0	0	2	18	
Kilby	0	11	10	68	Sewered 1955
Kirby Muxloe	2	1	1	7	
Leicester Forest West	0	0	0	2	Not sewered
Lubbes- thorpe	0	0	0	18	Not sewered
Narborough	5	3	3	6	
Potters Marston	0	0	0	6	Not sewered
Sapcote	88	22	16	35	Sewered 1953
Sharnford	63	15	12	25	Sewered 1953
Stoney Stanton	26	21	38	90	Sewered 1953
Thurlaston	0	0	0	95	Not sewered
Whetstone	2	6	9	61	
Wigston Parva	0	0	0	10	Not sewered
TOTAL	238	95	122	658	

Pail closets throughout the District are emptied weekly by the Cleansing Department and the contents disposed of by discharge into foul sewers at suitable manholes; treatment at the Council's central refuse tip; and occasionally on suitable agricultural land for manurial purpose.

During the year, principally in connection with conversions and re-drainage of premises, 10 drains were colour tested, 11 smoke tested, and 295 opened for examination. Sixty-one obstructed drains were cleared.

Sanitary Accommodation in Schools

The replacement of pail closets by water closets and other improvements to the sanitary accommodation were carried out in 1955 to the Sapcote C. of E. School.

Action was commenced to have similar improvements made at Kilby C. of E. School, following the provision of main drainage in the village towards the end of the year.

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Cleansing Department is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor.

A weekly collection of house refuse is made in every parish in the District, nine refuse collection vehicles being used. Refuse is disposed of at one central tip in Thurlaston by controlled tipping.

4. SANITARY INSPECTION

The number of complaints recorded in the Register during the year was 383. Defects or nuisances totalling 621 were dealt with at 483 premises.

Notices

Preliminary or Informal

	Public Health	Housing
Outstanding on 1st January	520 *	25
Issued during year	168	52
Complied with during year	326 *	32
Statutory Action necessary	3	2
Outstanding 31st December	362 *	45

* Preliminary Notices sent out in respect of water supply, drainage, and conversions, following sewerage and water schemes, cause the figures to be particularly high.

Total Informal Notices issued	220
Total Informal Notices complied with	358

Notices

Statutory or Formal

	Public Health	Housing
Outstanding on 1st January	2	3
Issued during year	3	2 ½
Complied with during year	3	5
Outstanding 31st December	2	0

½ Not including 34 Statutory Notices issued under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 in respect of Individual Unfit Houses.

Inspections and Revisits

Bakehouses	21	
Dairies	102	
Drainage Work	1,503	
Dwelling Houses	1,797	
Factories and Workplaces	120	
Food Premises	356	
Infectious Disease Enquiries	254	
Food Poisoning Enquiries	14	
Keeping of Animals	2	
Piggeries	10	
Movable Dwellings	68	
Refuse and Accumulations	38	
Rodent Infestation	76	(excluding visits by Rodent Operative)
Schools	11	
Shops	10	
Slaughterhouses(meat inspection)	1,366	
Smoke Nuisances	12	
Verminous and dirty premises	9	
Water Supplies	140	
Water Courses and Ditches	32	
Storage of Petroleum	63	
Unclassified	240	
	<hr/>	
	6,244	
	<hr/>	
Rodent Control	3,365	
	<hr/>	
<u>Grand Total</u>	9,609	
	<hr/>	

SHOPS

The provisions of Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950 are enforceable by the Council.

This section provides for the health and comfort of workers in shops, and relates specifically to:-

- Sanitary Accommodation
- Temperature
- Ventilation
- Washing Facilities
- Lighting
- Facilities for taking meals.

Although there are 318 shops in the District, the great majority are small family businesses, employing no shop assistants, to which the provisions of this Section of the Act do not apply.

When inspections are made at food shops regard is also given to the requirements of the Shops Act; but such inspections are not recorded as Shops Act inspections unless some contravention of the Act is found.

No contraventions were found during the year.

6. UNCLEAN OR VERMINOUS PREMISES

Although 9 visits were made during the year to unclean dwellings, in only two cases was evidence of vermin seen, the infestations being by fleas.

The two infested dwellings were both empty when inspected and were effectively treated before being re-occupied.

7. SMOKE ABATEMENT

The publicity given to The Clean Air Bill before Parliament during the year caused residents in various parts of the District to be more conscious of the emission of smoke and dust from factories and other premises than in previous years.

In only two cases, however, were complaints received of the emission of excessive smoke from factory chimneys arising from the combustion of coal.

At one of these premises where the boilers are mechanically stoked an improvement was made after consultation with the engineer in charge; in the other case, improvements to the plant have been recommended.

Several complaints were received in connection with the burning of scrap leather and other unsuitable materials in furnaces, and also on bonfires in the open, necessitating informal action for the discontinuance of such practices.

The establishment of new industrial processes at a factory in Glen Parva resulted in many complaints being received from residents in the vicinity of the works of annoyance and nuisance caused by the emission of dust and fumes.

Following informal action, the nuisance from the discharge of ferric-oxide dust was abated by improvement of the filters of the extraction plant.

A further nuisance arose from the discharge of zinc fumes and dust from another plant at the works, which necessitated the issue of a statutory notice under the Public Health Act for the abatement of the nuisance.

The matter of the establishment of this type of industry with such chemical processes in the vicinity of a residential area is receiving the attention of the County Planning Authority.

8. RODENT CONTROL

For the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Council maintains a Rodent Destruction Service, employing a Rodent Operative provided with a light van.

Treatment for the destruction of rats at private dwellings is carried out free of charge as a public service, but full charges are made for work on any business premises or agricultural land.

All premises and properties owned by the Council are regularly inspected and treated for the destruction of rats and mice when found necessary.

Inspection of Premises

<u>Description of Premises</u>	<u>Total Visits</u>
1. Private Dwellings	2,457
2. Council Houses	588
3. Business Premises	94
4. Farm and Agricultural Premises	23
5. Council Premises	53
6. Refuse Tips	11
7. Sewage Works	134
Total Visits	3,365

Surface Treatments 1955

	Council Premises	Private Dwellings	Agri- cultural Premises	Business or other Premises	Total
Complaints received	3	139	1	17	160
Premises Inspected	104	1,721	15	50	1,890
Major *	4	0	4	0	8
Minor	19	160	3	16	198
Mice	0	10	0	0	10
Premises Treated	23	170	7	16	216
Bodies Found	164	198	39	21	422

* An infestation estimated to exceed ten rats is classed as a Major Infestation.

Comparing this report on the degree of infestation in the District with reports on previous years, it would appear that it is now fairly constant at a reasonably low level.

Having regard to the nature of the District, a blend of rural and urban, the omnipresence of rats and mice throughout the country and the fecundity of the species, the rodent control service must be considered to be effective for the purpose of keeping infestation down to the minimum.

It is significant that the majority of infestations by rats of private dwellings, can be traced to the keeping of poultry in the vicinity, the rats being attracted by food and harbourage in the fowl runs. Similarly, the many piggeries and small-holdings attract rats from the surrounding countryside.

The sewage disposal works and the refuse tip of the Council are regularly inspected and infestation controlled to a most satisfactory degree.

Sewer Treatments

The foul sewers in fifteen parishes in the District are regularly treated at six-monthly intervals for rodent destruction by baiting in the manholes.

Sewer Treatment M1/55

	Total Number of Manholes	Manholes Baited	Manholes Bait Taken	Remarks
BLABY	85	18	2	
BRAUNSTONE	198	22	0	Test Bait only (no infestation)
COSBY	58	16	4	
COUNTRESTHORPE	68	17	3	
CROFT	42	15	3	
ENDERBY	81	13	2	
GLENFIELD	116	12	0	Test Bait only (no infestation)
GLEN PARVA	86	18	0	Test Bait only (no infestation)
HUNCOTE	21	7	0	Test Bait only (no infestation)
KIRBY MUXLOE	144	16	0	Test Bait only (no infestation)
NARBOROUGH (including Littlethorpe)	71	18	3	
SAPCOTE	21	13	7	
SHARNFORD	23	19	2	
STONEY STANTON	68	15	1	
WHETSTONE	31	8	0	Test Bait only (no infestation)
TOTAL	1,113	227	27	

Where the previous treatment showed no evidence of infestation in sections of sewers, test-baiting of a small percentage of the manholes is carried out.

There is always the possibility of sewers becoming infested by rats gaining access from the surface via partially completed drainage systems on new building estates.

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

9. MILK SUPPLY

Dairies

To ensure proper maintenance and cleanliness, 69 visits were made to the 11 registered dairies in the District during the year.

Milk is processed by pasteurisation at 3 dairies in the District.

1. Dairy, King Street, Enderby - Enderby Co-operative Society Limited.

An 'H.T.S.T.' plant at these premises pasteurises approximately 380 gallons of milk daily, the milk coming from 13 local farms.

2. Dairy, Huncote Road, Stoney Stanton - R.J. Lever.

Approximately 120 gallons of milk are pasteurised daily at these premises by the 'Holder' process. The milk is received from 2 local farms.

3. Dairy, 19 Lutterworth Road, Blaby - H. Wesson.

At this dairy approximately 140 gallons of milk from 3 farms are treated by the 'Holder' process daily.

Milk Distribution

The number of distributors of milk on the Register in the District at the end of 1955 was:-

Producer-Retailers (milk produced in District)	6
Distributors (from premises in District)	12
Distributors (from premises outside District)	13
Total	31

Milk Licences

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949, the Council issued the following licences:-

Dealers' Licences

Tuberculin Tested	-	10	(Raw Milk Regulations)
Pasteurised	-	15	(Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk Regulations)
Sterilised	-	5	(" " ")
also T.T. Pasteurised	-	4	

Supplementary Licences

To Distributors retailing milk in the Blaby Rural District from premises outside the District.

Tuberculin Tested	-	8	(Raw Milk Regulations)
Pasteurised	-	13	(Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk Regulations)
Sterilised	-	6	(" " ")
also T.T. Pasteurised	-	7	

Sale of Designated Milk

With the coming into force of the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1955, the Blaby Rural District was declared to be a Specified Area.

Accordingly, on and after the 6th December, 1955, only Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised, and Sterilised milks were permitted to be retailed in the District.

Milk Samples

Samples of milk are regularly taken from milk supplies in the District and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk Samples 1955

	Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
(Tuberculin Tested)			
Designated (30	27	3
(Pasteurised)	13	13	0
Undesignated raw	33	30	3
TOTALS	76	70 (92%)	6(8%)

Biological Examination of Milk Samples

All supplies of raw milk produced in the District for retail without heat-treatment were sampled each on four occasions during 1955 and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for biological examination to determine if any of the supplies were infected with *M. Tuberculosis* or *Brucella Abortus*, the latter being the causal organism of Undulant Fever in man.

Number of Routine Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Infected with <i>M. Tuberculosis</i>	Infected with <i>B. Abortus</i>
51	46	0	5

No evidence of living Tubercle Bacilli was observed in any of the samples, but it was found that the supplies of milk from four herds were infected with *Brucella Abortus*.

In endeavouring to determine the infected cows in each of these herds, 48 individual samples were taken.

Undertakings were given by the cowkeepers and arrangements made for the suspected milks to be heat-treated.

With the coming into operation of compulsory pasteurising of non-tuberculin-tested milks in December, 1955, the danger of infection by *Brucella Abortus* from the consumption of raw milk was considerably reduced.

10. ICECREAM

At the end of 1955, 80 premises were registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for the sale of icecream in the District.

No icecream is manufactured at any of these premises, only prepacked icecream now being sold.

Samples of icecream are taken when available throughout the year, but principally during the Summer months, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

At the Laboratory the samples are prepared and subjected to the Methylene Blue Reaction Test and graded into provisional grades varying from 1 to 4.

Samples in provisional grades 1 and 2 may be considered to be satisfactory.

Samples

Samples Taken	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
77	65	9	3	0
	74 (96%)		3 (4%)	

11. MEAT INSPECTION

With the return of private slaughtering in July, 1954, in my report for that year, I was only able to give some indication of the problem and work involved in the carrying out of an efficient meat inspection service in the District, but, after a full years working, I am now able to give a more satisfactory report on the position.

The twelve private slaughterhouses in the District are all up to a reasonable standard and have been licensed by the Council for a period of three years.

Although the standard attained was based on recommendations put forward in 1954 as being reasonable for an interim period, I must point out that such standard falls short of the minimum essential requirements of a slaughterhouse as set out in the appendices to the Report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Slaughterhouses published by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in July, 1955.

There has been excellent co-operation between the butchers and the inspectorate, and, in spite of the irregular times of slaughtering, killing during the holiday periods, and distances between the slaughterhouses, full meat inspection has been carried out of all animals slaughtered in the District.

The inspection of 5,886 animals necessitated 1,366 visits being made to slaughterhouses.

Due credit must be given to the local butchers on the excellent quality of the meat from the animals slaughtered in the District.

The healthy condition of the animals and comparative freedom from disease has helped the meat inspectors considerably in carrying out their onerous duty.

Carcases Inspected and Condemedned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total weight in lbs
Number killed	768	79	42	3647	1350	
Number inspected	768	79	42	3647	1350	
<u>All Diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerici</u>						
Whole carcase condemned	0	0	1	1	1)	1733
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	131	16	1	26	13)	
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerici	19.6%	20.3%	4.8%	0.7%	1.0%)	
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	2)	2275
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	39	14	0	0	38)	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5%	17.7%	0%	0%	3.0%)	
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0	
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	0	0	0	0	0	
Generalised and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0	

CONDEMNED MEAT - CAUSE OF CONDEMNATION

BOVINES		PIGS		SHEEP	
	Disease		Disease		Disease
1 Calf carcass & offal	Moribund	1 Carcase & offal	Pyæmia	1 Carcase & offal	Emaciation
4 Forequarters	Tuberculosis Pleurisy	1 Carcase & offal	Oedema	19 Livers	Fascioliasis
32 Heads & Tongues	Tuberculosis	1 Carcase & offal	Generalised Tuberculosis	7 Livers	Cirrhosis
25 Lungs	"	34 Heads & Tongues	"	1 Liver	Abscesses
8 Livers	"	3 Lungs	"		
2 Kidneys	"	1 Liver	"		
4 Mesenteries	"	5 Mesenteries	"		
20 Livers	Abscesses	3 Livers	Cirrhosis	3 Lungs	Pneumonia
21 Livers	Cirrhosis			3 "	Strongylosis
45 Livers	Fascioliasis				
6 Livers	Cavernous Angioma				
1 Liver	Melanosis				
5 Lungs	Abscesses	4 Lungs	Pneumonia		
1 Lung	Pneumonia				
1 Lung	Hydrated Cysts	2 parts carcasses	Urticaria		
3 parts carcasses	Bruising				

12. FOOD PREMISES AND INSPECTION

Over the past several years, and particularly since the adoption of Byelaws by the Council in 1951, under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for securing hygienic handling of food, gradual improvement has been made at the food shops and food preparing premises in the District, with the result that by the end of 1955, such premises were up to an acceptable standard.

In December, 1955, however, The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 were made jointly by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to come, in the main, into operation on the 1st January, 1956, and it is now obvious that a much higher standard is to be required.

Nevertheless, the improvements made and the standard already attained will form a very good level from which to bring the standard still higher.

Inspection of Food Premises

	<u>Improvements</u>		
	<u>Visits Made</u>	<u>Notices Issued</u>	<u>Notices Complied</u>
Dairies & Milkshops	72	1	1
Milk Vehicles	30		
Bakehouses	21	1	1
Butchers & Cooked Meat Shops	67	1	2
Fried Fish Shops	10		
Icecream Premises	131	1	4
Icecream Vehicles	2		
Food Shops	69	8	30
Cafes & Restaurants	20		1
Licensed Premises	32	4	5
Food Stores	20	2	
Food Vehicles	2		
	476	18	44
Slaughterhouses	1,366	1	4
Total	1,842	19	48

Disposal of Condemned Food

Surrendered and condemned food is collected and conveyed in the Department's van to the Council's refuse tip where it is properly disposed of by burying under supervision.

Foods Surrendered and Condemned

Weight (approx.)

22 tins	Canned Meat	91 lbs.
539 "	" Vegetables	1,537 "
27 "	" Fish	15 "
6 "	" Soup	6 "
25 "	" Fruit	82 "
12 Jars	Jam	12 "
	Prunes	30 "
	Ham	6 "
	Mussels	112 "
	Fish	112 "

Total Weight 2,003 lbs.

13. HOUSING

(A) NEW HOUSES

The following information relating to new houses and Council houses has been obtained from other Departments.

Houses completed during year			Average Cost per House	Average Rent (Exclusive of Rates)
	Prefabricated Permanent	Permanent		
Council	68	56	2 Bedroom £1,557	17/6 per week
			3 Bedroom £1,785	17/11 per week
Private Enterprise	-	426	£2,000	-
=====				
Houses in course of erection 31.12.55.				
Council	68	74	-	-
Private Enterprise	-	536	-	-
=====				

Total Number of Post-War Houses Completed

Council 1,149

Private Enterprise 1,334

Total Number of Applicants for Council
houses at end of year 317

Number of new applications received
during year 130

(B) INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING YEAR

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 1) | Number of dwelling houses which were inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act and Housing Acts). | 316 |
| 2) | Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932. | 114 |
| 3) | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | 58 |

(C) CLEARANCE AREAS (Housing Act 1936 & Housing Repairs & Rents Act 1954)

		No. of dwelling-houses demolished in the period	No. of Persons displaced
		<u>Unfit Houses</u>	<u>Other Houses</u>
1)	Land coloured pink and pink hatched yellow	0	0
2)	Land coloured grey	-	0

(D) HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS

Houses demolished or closed in the period		<u>Houses</u>	<u>No. of Persons displaced</u>
1)	Housing Act 1936		
a)	Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11)	4	15
b)	Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	8	26
c)	Parts of building closed (Section 12)	0	0

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>No. of Persons displaced</u>
2) <u>Housing Act 1949</u> Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2)	0	0
3) <u>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953</u> Closed as a result of Closing Orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2)	13	39

E. REPAIRS in the period

	<u>Number of Houses</u>
4) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts.	119
5) Public Health Acts - action after service of formal notice - Houses in which defects were remedied.	
(a) By owners	4
(b) By local authority in default of owners	0
6) Housing Act 1936 - action after service of formal notice Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16.	
Houses made fit	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By local authority in default of owners	0
7) Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	0

F. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE
(Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954)

	<u>Number of Houses</u>
Position at end of period	
8) (a) Houses retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	0

	<u>Number of Houses</u>
(b) Separate dwellings contained in (a) on previous page	0
(c) Houses licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	0

G. PURCHASES OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT

	<u>Number of Houses</u>
9) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the period.	8
H. <u>HOUSING ACT 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING</u>	
a) 1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	2
2) Number of families dwelling therein	2
3) Number of persons dwelling therein	11
b) 1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	6 *
2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	41 *
d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling- houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	-

* In addition 11 cases of overcrowding on Bedroom Standard were relieved by the Council involving 58 persons.

I. HOUSING SUMMARY

a) Total number of occupied houses in District	13,208
b) Total number of Council houses occupied in District	1,593

J. HOUSING ACT 1949

a) Number of applications for reconditioning grants	69
b) Number of applications approved	25
c) Number of applications refused	2

Included in a) are a number of preliminary applications some of which were not further proceeded with by the applicants.

By the end of the year 6 grant-aided reconditioning schemes were completed involving payment of grants amounting to £1,089.11s.1d.

Due to financial restrictions imposed by the Government on Local Authorities, and the consequent loan-raising difficulties, the Council felt it necessary to suspend the making of any further Improvement Grants in November 1955.

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

Under the provisions of Section 1, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, the Council had to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government before the 30th August, 1955 draft proposals for dealing with unfit houses under a Slum Clearance Programme.

Such return was made on the 26th January, 1955 and included the following figures.

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| i) | Estimated number of houses unfit for habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936. | 332 |
| ii) | Period in years the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of the houses in i) | 8 |

These figures show an estimated clearance rate of about 40 houses a year, approximately 30 houses by Clearance Area Procedure and 10 houses by demolition as Individual Unfit dwellings.

In 1955, the first year of the programme, procedure in respect of 3 Clearances Areas involving 24 houses was taken:-

Station Road, Glenfield - Clearance Area No. 1 - 8 houses

Moores Lane, Enderby - Clearance Area No. 2 - 8 houses

Wigston Road, Blaby - Clearance Area No. 3 - 8 houses

<u>Number of houses in Clearances Areas</u>	<u>24</u>
---	-----------

In addition, the following action was taken:-

Demolition Orders made in respect of 8 dwellings

Closing Orders made in respect of 13 dwellings

Total number of houses dealt with
during year for Clearance, Demolition,
or Closing 45 dwellings

As there is invariably a lapse of time between the confirmation of a Clearance Order or making of a Demolition Order and the re-housing of the occupants from condemned dwelling-houses, some time must necessarily elapse before such houses may be demolished; hence only 4 of the houses in respect of which action was taken were in fact demolished by the end of the year.

Although the figure of 332 unfit dwellings has been put forward as the number of houses to be dealt with in the Slum Clearance Scheme extending over the next eight years, it must be appreciated that there are many other sub-standard houses in the District so sited that it may be necessary to review this number as the scheme progresses.

REPAIR AND RECONDITIONING OF HOUSES

The principal Act for securing the repair and improvement of unfit houses is still the Housing Act, 1936, and, pre-war, considerable numbers of unfit dwellings were reconditioned and made fit as a result of action taken by Local Authorities under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936.

In the post-war period, due to controlled low rents and the increased cost of building work, difficulty has been experienced by Councils in employing the provisions of Section 9, Housing Act, 1936 for securing the repair of unfit houses.

With the coming into operation of the Housing Act, 1949, it was hoped that the making of Improvement Grants would encourage landlords to repair and recondition their houses, but, unfortunately, the majority of landlords appear to lack the necessary capital to carry out the essential repairs and half the cost of the work of improvement necessary to qualify for grant aid.

There has been little or no response to approaches made to landlords to recondition their properties with grant-aid, and it is significant that practically all the Improvement Grants made by the Council have been to owner-occupiers.

In a further endeavour to expedite the repair of tenanted houses, the Government introduced the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 whereby inter alia landlords were permitted to increase the rents of the houses if repairs had been carried out.

Again, it would appear that this Act has failed in its main purpose, that of inducing landlords to bring their houses up to a reasonable standard of fitness and repair.

Whereas there is no definite information on the number of rents that have been increased under this Act, it is believed that the majority of landlords have refrained from taking such action, well-knowing that the tenants would apply to the Council for a Certificate of Disrepair in respect of their houses.

Only one application for a Certificate of Disrepair following notice of rent increase was received during 1955. This was issued and eventually revoked following certain repairs being carried out.

In this case, however, the house was not sub-standard and the repairs were not of any extensive nature.

It would appear that post-war legislation has been inadequate to deal with the problem of the repair and reconditioning of the unfit and sub-standard dwelling, and some review of the present Housing and Rents Acts is required to meet the situation.

14. MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Although there are no licensed caravan or camping sites in the District, licences have been issued under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936 to 27 occupiers to station and use for their own occupation caravans in the District.

Readily accessible mains water supply is available in each case and 68 visits were made during the year to ensure the drainage and other sanitary conditions were satisfactorily maintained.

15. FACTORIES

In addition to agriculture, there are a considerable number of industries in the District, the principal being:-

Boots and Shoes	Hosiery
Leather dressing	Knitwear
Leather washers	Dyeing
Toe Puffs	Cardboard Boxes
Electrical Components	Food Preparation
Photographic Equipment	Joinery and Sawmilling
Light Engineering	Artificial Stone, Concrete
Motor Vehicles Repair	Products
Coach Building	Concrete Pipes
Bricks and Tiles	Sand Quarrying
Stone Quarrying	

The number of factories entered in the Register at the end of 1955 was 165.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without Mechanical Power	6	6	-	-
Factories with Mechanical Power	151	90	7	-
Other Premises included under Act	8	24	2	-
TOTAL	165	120	9	-

In general, the sanitary conditions in the factories in the District are good. Particulars of defects found are set out below.

Cases in which defects were found

	Found	Remedied	Referred		Prosecution Cases
			To H.M.I.	From H.M.I.	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
a) Insufficient	2	1	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	4	-	-	2	-
TOTAL	10	5	-	2	-

Fire Escape Certificates

Applications were made to the Council for the issue of a Certificate as to Adequate Means of Escape in Case of Fire under Section 34, Factories Act, 1937 in respect of four factories.

One certificate was issued and the others deferred pending necessary work of improvement in connection with exit doors and other matters at the other three factories.

Outworkers

Section 110, Factories Act, 1937 requires the occupier of every factory to send to the District Council during the months of February and August each year, copies of a list showing all outworkers so employed by him during the preceding six months.

The lists received show that various firms in the District, as well as the City of Leicester and Urban Districts of Hinckley and Wigston, mostly engaged in the making of wearing apparel, employ outworkers residing in the Blaby Rural District.

No case of infectious disease was noted at any of the addresses of these outworkers, and no case of work in unwholesome premises was noted.

Outworkers - August Return 1955

Nature of Work	Outworkers employed by firms in District	Outworkers employed by firms outside District
Wearing Apparel		
Hosiery	17	143
Boots and Shoes	8	16
Knitwear	13	11
Gloves	0	8
Clothing	14	54
	52	232
Electrical Equipment	2	0
Total	54	232
TOTAL		286

There were no cases of firms in the District defaulting in sending lists of outworkers to the Council.

16. STORAGE OF PETROLEUM

All places where petroleum spirit and inflammable petroleum-based mixtures are stored are controlled by the Council by the issue of annual licences under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act.

In the interests of public safety and fire prevention, the installation of underground petrol storage tanks and of overground storage of petroleum mixtures have now to conform to high standard specifications.

Sixty-seven licences were issued in 1955 in respect of storage in underground tanks at 26 petrol-filling stations, and 41 private petrol and petroleum mixtures stores.

Produced and Printed at the Offices
of the
Blaby Rural District Council
Narborough, Leicester.

